

**Big Game Management Units where bears may be encountered**

- Grizzly & Black Bears are present
- Black Bears are present & Grizzly Bears may be present
- Black Bears are present

**Idaho Fish and Game**

**PANHANDLE REGION** .....  
2885 Kathleen Ave., Coeur d'Alene

**CLEARWATER REGION** .....  
3316 16th Street, Lewiston, ID

**UPPER SNAKE REGION** .....  
4279 Commerce Circle, Idaho Falls

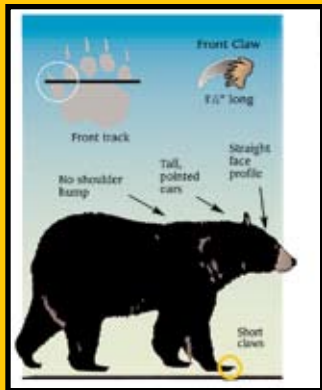
**UPPER SNAKE REGION ..... (208) 525-7290**  
**4279 Commerce Circle, Idaho Falls, ID 83401**

# How to Hunt Safely in Grizzly Bear Country

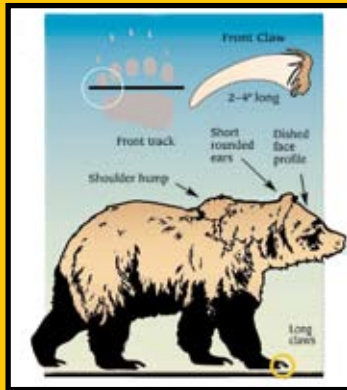


## What to be aware of if you hunt in grizzly country:

- ▶ Grizzlies are primarily found in two areas of Idaho: the Panhandle in big game unit 1; and southeast Idaho in the Yellowstone ecosystem in big game units 60, 61, 62, 62A, 65, and 67. In 2007 a grizzly bear was located in Unit 10. Additionally, grizzly bears might also be present in Units 2, 4, 4A, 7, 9, 10, 12, and 17.
- ▶ Be aware that the act of hunting increases your chance of encountering grizzlies in these areas.
- ▶ You should hunt with partners in grizzly country and make each other aware of plans. Communications and check in times are helpful.
- ▶ While hunting in grizzly country, pay attention to fresh grizzly bear sign. Look for tracks, scats, digs, concentration of foods or a carcass.
- ▶ Let your partners know if you've seen grizzly bear sign. **Be sure of your target before shooting a bear.** Grizzly bears can only be killed in self defense.



Black Bear



Grizzly Bear

graphics and photos courtesy of Chuck Bartlebaugh-CWI

## Safeguards for retrieving game in bear country:

- ▶ When hunting in grizzly bear country, the golden rule is "get the meat out of the area as quickly as possible". The longer a carcass remains lying on the ground or within reach of a bear, the more likely it will be discovered by a grizzly.
- ▶ If you cannot get the meat out immediately then use special caution. Carry a lightweight tarp or space blanket. Put the guts on the tarp and drag them far away from the carcass. Use the tarp to cover the carcass to prevent scent as well as to keep ravens and other predators away. Hang clothing and other items at the site to keep animals away. Locate an observation point as far away from the carcass as possible with a clear line-of-sight to the carcass and memorize the site.
- ▶ When returning, approach the carcass carefully. Yell or whistle repeatedly. Study the scene with binoculars from the observation point and look for sign of a bear. Do not try to scare a bear off a carcass. If the meat is not salvageable, report the incident to IDFG.

- ▶ When hanging meat back at camp, make sure it is at least ten feet off the ground. Also, keep food and other garbage out of a bear's reach.



*Remember - if you are alert and prepared, hunting in grizzly country can be very safe and rewarding.*

## What to do if you encounter a bear:

- ▶ The mere presence of a bear does not always pose a risk. The vast majority of bears will leave an area when they become aware of human presence. If you do run into a bear, assess the situation and stay calm: do not run.
- ▶ Decide if the bear is aware of you and threatening, or if it is fleeing or unaware. Keep the bear in sight and back away and leave the area.
- ▶ Most grizzly attacks are prompted by inadvertently running into a female and young, surprising a bear at close range or near a carcass.
- ▶ When hunting in grizzly country, it is recommended that every hunter **carry bear pepper spray**. Keep the spray easily accessible and within reach. Bears sprayed in the face at close range usually stop attacking and are less likely to inflict injury.
- ▶ If attacked, use a weapon only if bear pepper spray is unavailable. Wounding a bear could increase the level of an attack.
- ▶ As a last resort, if physically attacked, play dead until the bear is gone. Lie face down, covering your neck and head with your arms. This technique has proven successful in reducing injuries during an attack.